1 2	3	4	5
28. West Bengal	6.6	8.1	na
29. A&N Islands	-4.2	10.8	na
30. Chandigarh	13.3	13.5	na
31. Delhi	10.3	9.2	na
32. Pondicherry	-10.7	6.2	7.4
ALL INDIA:	7.5	9.4	9.6

NA - not available

SOURCE: Central Statistical Organisation.

Tribal farmers with Kisan Credit Cards

50. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal farmers having Kisan Credit Cards in Jharkhand district-wise and block-wise;

(b) the percentage of tribal farmers that have Kisan Credit Cards;

(c) by when all tribal farmers will have Kisan Credit Cards; and

(d) the total amount for tribal Kisan Credit Cards in Jharkhand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Date reporting system of NABARD, which is the Nodal Agency for implementation of Kisan Credit Card (KCC), does not collect the requisite information, in the manner asked for.

During the year 2007-08 (till November 30, 2007) a total of 32,495 KCCs have been issued with the sanctioned amount of Rs. 358 lakh. As on November 30,2007, since inception, a total of 7,46,967 KCCs have been issued in the State of Jharkhand, having a sanctioned amount of Rs. 1,21,550 lakh (all data provisional).

Relief to farmers

51. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to announce relief to the farmers who are suffering under the burden of mounting loans;

(b) if so, whether the banks would be directed to waive loans to small farmers;

(c) if so, how many farmers are expected to be benefited from the such initiative; and

(d) the details of the total outlays that would be earmarked for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (d) The Government had appointed an Expert Group on Agricultural Indebtedness under the Chairmanship of Prof. R. Radhakrishna. The Expert

Group has pointed out that the underlying causes of agricultural indebtedness are stagnation in agriculture, production and marketing risks, institutional vacuum and lack of alternative livelihood opportunities in terms of off-farm employment. The recommendations of the Expert Group can be categorised under the following five major heads:

(i) Immediate Credit Measures

(ii) Financial Architecture

(iii) Institutional Architecture

(iv) Risk Mitigation Measures

(v) Other Measures

The Expert Group has *inter alia,* recommended re-schedulement of loans and waiver of interest in case of farmers affected by natural clamities and crop failure in case of rainfed areas with interest waiver to be shared by the Central and State Governments.

The Report of the Expert Group is under examination of the Government.

Prevention of circulation of fake currency notes

52. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has recently asked all the banks to take stringent measures for prevention of circulation of fake currency notes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the circulation of fake currency notes have jeopardised the economy of the country;

(d) if so, to what extent the economy has been affected by circulation of fake currency; and

(e) the manner in which the circulation of fake currency in the country is likely to be checked?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that all the Currency Chest maintaining branches have been equipped with Note Sorting Machines which detect the counterfeits. Instructions have been issued to banks to ensure that only sorted and examined bank notes are put into circulation through their counters and ATMs. Banks have also been advised to strengthen the checks and safeguards both during the processing as well as transport of banknotes to ATMs and payments made at their counters.

(c) to (e) In this regard no specific survey has been conducted by the Government. Steps taken by Government/RBI to check the circulation of counterfeit notes, *inter-alia,* include:—

(i) Additional of new/additional security features to bank notes.

(ii) Greater coordination by the Reserve Bank with the investigating agencies like the Intelligence Bureau and the Central Bureau of Investigation as well as State Police Authorities for concerted action against the counterfeiters.